

1999 Ozone

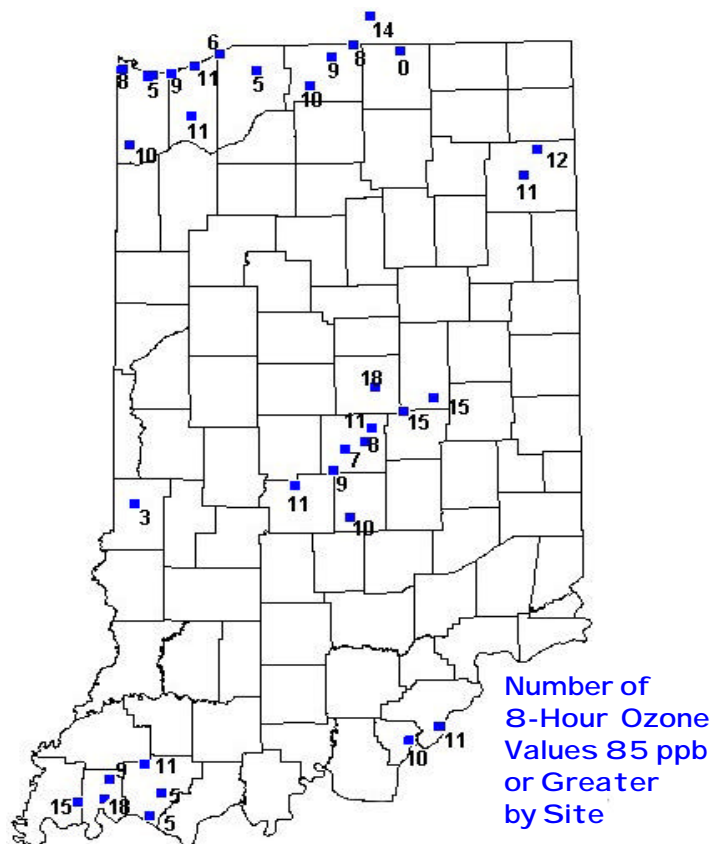
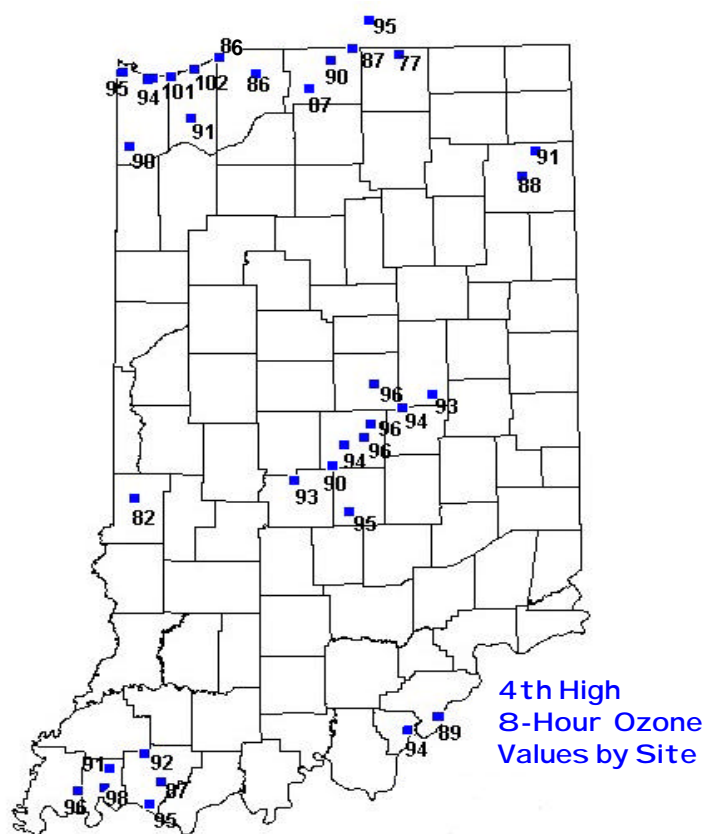


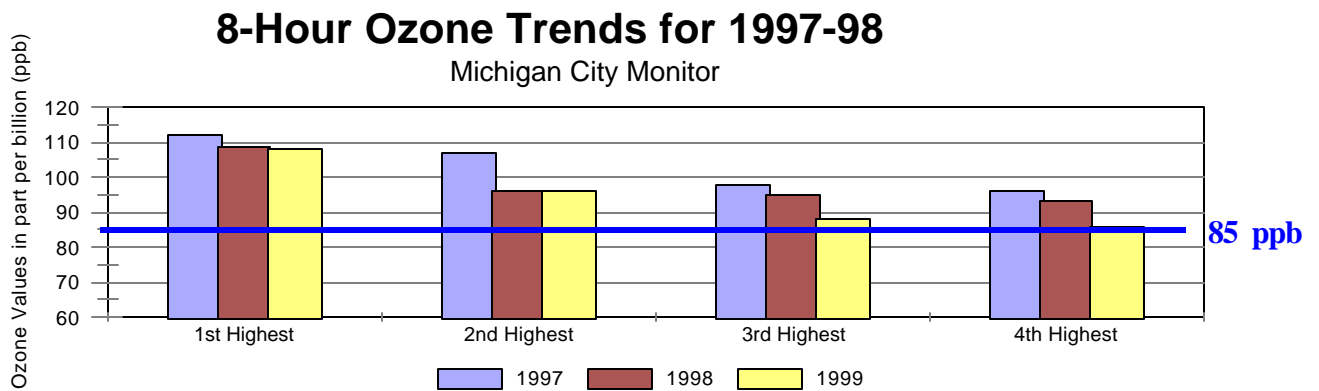
Season Report

This report provides a summary of ozone levels (smog) throughout Indiana during the 1999 ozone season (May 1- September 30). Indiana has five counties where air quality exceeds the one-hour ozone standard and six metropolitan areas where ozone levels exceed the eight-hour standard established by the U.S. EPA in 1997. The eight-hour standard is 85 parts per billion (ppb) and is based on an average of the 4th highest 8-hour ozone readings over a three year period. While the eight-hour standard is being challenged in court, IDEM is pursuing measures to meet the one-hour standard by reducing ozone contributing emissions and improving air quality throughout Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) operates 33 ozone monitors across Indiana. All of these monitors, except Bristol in Elkhart County, measured ozone values in excess of 85 ppb at least once during 1999. The highest 8-hour reading was 109 ppb recorded at New Albany, Indiana. The highest number of days in which the health standard was not met at a monitor was 18 days. The Noblesville and Evansville, Indiana monitors each exceeded the 8-hour standard 18 days in 1999. Northwest Indiana's Lake County monitors, Gary IITRI, Hammond, and Lowell exceeded the 8 hour standard 5, 8, and 10 days, respectively. Porter County's Ogden Dunes, Dunes National Lakeshore, and Valparaiso monitors exceeded the 8 hour standard 9, 11, and 11 days respectively. LaPorte County's Michigan City and LaPorte monitors exceeded the 8 hour standard 6 and 5 days respectively.

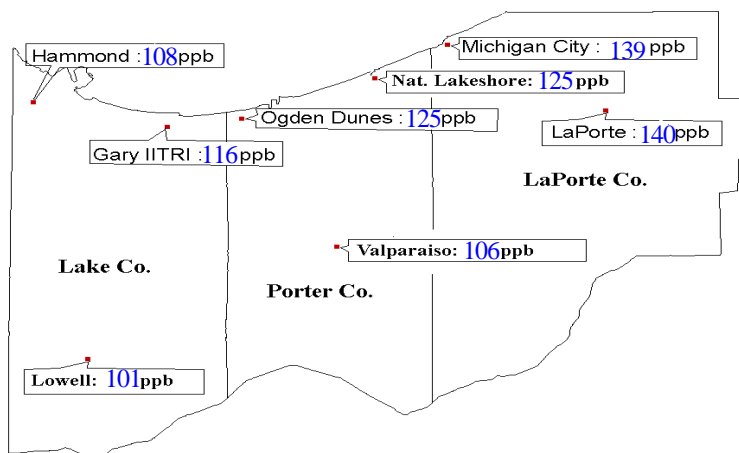
The maps below show the fourth highest 8-hour concentration at each monitor and the number of days this year in which ozone values greater than 85 ppb were measured at each site.





Since 1997, Northwest Indiana's highest ozone readings have occurred at the Michigan City monitor. The chart above illustrates the top four 8-hour ozone values for 1997-99. The eight-hour standard was violated at this site on May 30, 1999, with a 4th highest ozone value 86 parts per billion (ppb).

Northwest Indiana 1999 Ozone Values 1-Hour Maximum Readings



Northwest Indiana is currently designated as severe-nonattainment for the 1-hour regional ozone standard. The 1-hour standard is based on three years of data in which the average number of readings exceeding 125 ppb cannot be violated more than once in three consecutive years. The map to the left shows the 1-hour maximum ozone readings for 1999. The monitors at Michigan City, LaPorte, National Lakeshore and Ogden Dunes had one exceedance each. Based on 1997-1999 data, none of the monitors in Northwest Indiana have a three year average that exceeds the 1-hour standard.

What Can You Do?

1. Get active in ozone planning for your community. IDEM established seven Regional Ozone Steering Committees to take a proactive approach to ozone planning. Call IDEM for more information on how to get involved.

2. Get in the know about ozone levels. During ozone season, listen or watch for Ozone Action Day information on your local radio and TV stations. You can even get daily ozone readings, forecasts, and monitor data from Indiana's Smog Watch web site. Check out the Smog Watch Web site at <http://www.state.in.us/idem/oam/smog> or call our toll-free Smog Watch Forecast Line at (800) 631-2871 from May through September.

3. Reduce your impact. Ride share; fill up the car or mow your lawn after dusk; and go inside the bank or restaurant instead of using the drive-thru. By making these efforts you can help reduce your impact on high ozone days. For more information on Indiana's ground-level ozone monitoring or voluntary reductions programs, contact Amy Morris, Partners for Clean Air, Indiana Department of Environmental Management at (800) 451-6027, ask for extension 3-6870 or dial (317) 233-6870 direct.

